GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4052
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2002
LICENCES TO PHOTOGRAPHERS
THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government issued licence to photographers for photography inside the Taj:

(b)if so, the details of the eligibility criteria fixed for the issue of licence;

(c)the number of photographers who applied for the licence and the number who were subsequently issued the licence;

(d)the details of eligibility condition fulfilled by the successful photographers;

(e)the number of the successful candidates who have been practising photography for over two years;

(f)whether any irregularities have been reported in this regard; and

(g)if so, the action taken against those found guilty?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a)Yes, Sir.

(b)According to the erstwhile applicable eligibility criteria, the applicant should have been a citizen of India, and a major; owning reputed photo-studio well equipped with photography infrastructure and running over 5 years; not located within 200 Meters from Taj Mahal but situated in Agra district; and having no dues of Sales Tax and Income Tax outstanding, etc.

The Government has now decided to revise the above eligibility criteria with effect from 1st January, 2003, and remove the condition of owning the Photo-studio; and grant licences to anybody fulfilling the revised criteria, for a period of three years, on payment of licence fee of Rs.5000/- but licence may be cancelled in case of violation of terms and conditions of licence.

(c)About 376 applications had been received, and after scrutiny, about 120 persons had been issued licences. However, under the new system which will come into effect from 1st January, 2003, anybody fulfilling the new terms and conditions will be able to get a licence straightway.

(d) to(g)Does not arise.